

Weekly Views

December 2, 2011

All IDOC Chaplains received heartwarming gifts in the form of jackets from Dave Liebel representing the Department's Religious Services Division. The blue jackets are in conjunction with a special proclamation by Governor Mitch Daniels, recognizing the contribution of correctional chaplains, part of Pastoral Care Week. It is the first such recognition for IDOC Chaplains. A faith based foundation donated funds for the purchase of jackets with the DOC logo and name of each Department Chaplain as a way of expressing appreciation for their ministries. (see photo below of Dave Liebel and staff from WVCF)



Sharon Dawn, Administrative Assistant at the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP), organized an enormous traditional project that involved staff and offenders from the IWP IVY Tech Culinary Arts Class, Aramark and the Indianapolis Re-entry Educational Facility. The collaborative effort by everyone made it possible for over 300 turkeys and dressing to be cooked at IWP prior to feeding over 7200 people at the Watkins's Community Center on Thanksgiving Day. This count does not include the meals passed out from the other three facilities that served meals. Many monetary and food donations were received to help make the dinner a feast. The help from all was greatly appreciated and is a prime example of "Working together Works!"

Once again the Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) exceeded their goal during the facility's Red Cross Blood drive. A special recognition award was presented to WCC staff member Glenda Lewis, who voluntarily coordinates three blood drives each year at WCC. As a direct result of Glenda's efforts, the facility has collected a total of 732 units of blood over the last few years.

The Stepping Stone Shelter for Women in Michigan City and Use What You Got Ministries of Indianapolis both received a \$250 donation from the PLUS Unit at the Indiana State Prison. The men from the PLUS Unit also made colorful blankets for the children at the Stepping Stone Shelter which were presented at the same time as the check presentation. (see photo below)



Matt Peterson was hired as a Chaplain at the Pendleton Correctional Facility. Mr. Peterson is in the process of completing his Masters in Divinity Degree from the Christian Theological Seminary. Congratulations Chaplain Peterson!

Lieutenant Jim Boldman who previously worked at the Correctional Industrial Facility has been hired as a Lieutenant at the Pendleton Correctional Facility. A ceremony was conducted in the Superintendent's office to welcome Lieutenant Boldman to the facility.

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility has five new Sergeants ready to serve as front line supervisors! Congratulations to newly pinned Gary Small, Matthew Liddle, Athena Davis, Michael Greves and Benjamin Lake. Major Dusty Russell and Zone Captain Vera Barnett said the impressive new class is now undergoing 80 rigorous hours of Sergeant Field Training.

Superintendent Stanley Knight at the Putnamville Correctional Facility extends his congratulations to Correctional Officer Mark Neese in recognition of his appointment as the Promoting Positive Corrections Culture (PPCC) staff member of the month. Neese, a five year employee, will receive a Subway Gift Card and have his photo displayed in the entry area of the facility.

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility (MJCF) completed its year one ACA Program Review. MJCF scored 100% on all mandatory standards and 99.7% on all non-mandatory standards. Superintendent Tim Greathouse praised all staff for their teamwork.

A group of volunteers with Lemuel Vega from the organization Christmas Behind Bars came to the Indiana State Prison and delivered bags of goodies to the offender population. The volunteers with Mr. Vega's group performed a special program in the chapel for the offenders after delivering the gifts.

Ivy Tech Community College held their First Recognition Ceremony at the Indiana Women's Prison for 60 offenders that completed courses in Business Technology, GED, Culinary Arts and Horticulture. IWP staff and the offenders' families attended the ceremony to congratulate the offenders for this great accomplishment in their lives.